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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19833 211019Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /018 W
---------- 078227 /20
R 210609Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2286

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19833

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, ACOM, UR, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROTEST NOTE ON UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO
DIPLOMATIC POUCH

REF: A/SY/SAS MEMORANDUM DTD 12/6/76 (NOTAL)

1. REFERENCED MEMORANDUM ADDRESSES SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY OF UNCLASSIFIED POUCH BR-5751, INVOICE A-777, RECEIVED BY AMEMBASSY MOSCOW ON 9/24/76.

2. PROPOSED TEXT OF NOTE PROTESTING POUCH ENTRY FOLLOWS:

3. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT INVOLVING THE UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO A DIPLOMATIC POUCH ADDRESSED TO THIS EMBASSY.

U.S. DIPLOMATIC POUCHES WERE DISPATCHED ON AUGUST 31, 1976, FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. THE POUCHES WERE SHIPPED VIA COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. TWO OF THE POUCHES WERE RECEIVED BY OUR EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 2. THE THIRD POUCH WAS NOT LOCATED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 22 WHEN SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT AUTHORITIES ADVISED US THAT THEY WERE HOLDING THE MISSING POUCH FOR US. ON SEPTEMBER 23 AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WAS SENT TO THE AIRPORT TO PICK UP THE MISSING POUCH. HE WAS ADVISED AT SHEREMETYEVO
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AIRPORT BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MISSING POUCH AND OUR EMPLOYEE RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY WITHOUT THE POUCH.

ON SEPTEMBER 24 OUR EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AGAIN VISITED SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT AND WAS FINALLY GIVEN THE MISSING POUCH.

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A TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF MATERIAL IN THE POUCH CONFIRMED WITHOUT DOUBT THAT THE POUCH HAD BEEN ENTERED AND DOCUMENTS CONTAINED THEREIN EXAMINED PRIOR TO OUR RECEIPT OF THE POUCH.

WE STRONGLY PROTEST THIS BLATANT VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 27 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION WHICH CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THE INVIOLABILITY OF THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

WE DEMAND THAT THE MINISTRY MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE THAT DIPLOMATIC POUCHES ADDRESSED TO THIS EMBASSY ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL WITHOUT DELAY.

THE EMBASSY ALSO STRESSES ITS CONCERN OVER THE INTOLERABLE VIOLATION OF OUR DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND DEMANDS THAT THE MINISTRY TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THIS INCIDENT.

4. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO DELIVER NOTE TO MFA AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE.
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